

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled)

1 **Claim 2 (previously presented):** A camera according to
2 claim 8,
3 wherein one of the first optical filter and the second
4 optical filter is a color filter and the other is a black-
5 and-white filter, and
6 wherein the color filter is switched to obtain a color
7 image during the day with a high image signal level, and
8 the black-and-white filter is switched to obtain a black-
9 and-white image at night with a low image signal level.

1 **Claim 3 (previously presented):** A camera according to
2 claim 8 or 2, further comprising
3 detecting means which detects a level of the image
4 signal output from the image pick-up element,
5 wherein the first optical filter and the second
6 optical filter are automatically switched depending on the
7 signal level thus detected.

1 **Claim 4 (currently amended):** A method of switching
2 optical filters of a camera, said method comprising the
3 steps of:

4 forming an image on an image pick-up element through
5 a lens provided on a camera body;

6 converting the image into an electrical signal through
7 the image pick-up element, thereby obtaining an image
8 signal;

9 detecting a level of the image signal output from the
10 image pick-up element ~~by detecting means~~; and

11 ~~automatically switching between selectively~~
12 positioning one of a first optical filter and a second
13 optical filter ~~through optical filter switching means~~
14 ~~provided on a in front surface~~ of the image pick-up element
15 depending on the detected signal level ~~detected by the~~
16 ~~detecting means~~.

1 **Claim 5 (previously presented):** A method of switching
2 optical filters of a camera according to claim 4,

3 wherein one of the first optical filter and the second
4 optical filter is a color filter and the other is a black-
5 and-white filter, and

6 wherein the color filter is switched to obtain a color
7 image during the day with a high image signal level, and
8 the black-and-white filter is switched to obtain a black-
9 and-white image at night with a low image signal level.

1 **Claim 6 (previously presented):** A method of switching
2 an optical filter of a camera according to claim 5, further
3 comprising steps of:
4 when the first optical filter is switched into the
5 second optical filter or the second optical filter is
6 switched into the first optical filter, outputting
7 character information indicating the switching, from
8 display means to a monitor; and
9 displaying the character information together with an
10 image shot by the camera, on a screen of the monitor.

1 **Claim 7 (previously presented):** A method of switching
2 optical filters of a camera, according to claim 6,
3 wherein character information indicating that a black-
4 and-white image is displayed on the screen of the monitor,
5 when said image shot by the camera is automatically
6 switched from a color image to a black-and-white image
7 after detecting an image pick-up environment.

1 **Claim 8 (previously presented):** A camera comprising:
2 a lens provided on a camera body;
3 an image pick-up element for converting an image is
4 provided by the lens into an electrical image signal;
5 a first optical filter;
6 a second optical filter; and

7 optical filter switching mechanism for selectively
8 positioning one of the first optical filter and the second
9 optical filter in front of the image pick-up element based
10 on a level of the image signal.